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REMARKS

In the outstanding Final Official Action, claims 1-12, 15 and 16 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pilniak in view of Tanigawa et al, for the reasons of record. Although claims 13 and 14 were not expressly rejected in the Action, it was indicated in the action that the limitations of these claims do not distinguish over the Tanigawa reference. Accordingly, in the interest of advancing prosecution, it will be assumed that the outstanding rejection applies to all pending claims.

More particularly, it was suggested in the Action that Pilniak discloses a conductive plate having an inductive function meeting the structural limitations of the claims, while Tanigawa discloses a device with a circuit arrangement that includes an inductor and a solid center for the loops.

In response, independent claims 1 and 15 are herewith amended in order to more particularly and precisely define the novel and unobvious features of the instant invention, and it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1 and 15, and the remaining claims depending therefrom, as herewith amended, are now clearly patentable distinguishable over the cited and applied references for the reasons detailed below.

With regard to the Pilniak reference, what is in fact shown and described is a winding stack having an arrangement of alternating insulating material layers (9) and layers of structured metal sheet (11) "stacked one above the other". This arrangement can clearly be seen in Fig. 3 of the reference. In the instant invention, on the contrary, the inductors are formed in a single plane in the conductive plate (see, for example, Fig. 2). Independent claims 1 and 15 are herewith amended in order to more particularly and precisely recite this significant structural distinction.

The Tanigawa reference is suggested in the Action to disclose a device with a circuit arrangement that includes an inductor and a solid center for the loops. However, a careful examination of the reference, and in particular cited Fig. 2 and the associated description thereof, will reveal that what is in fact disclosed is a printed coil (31) having a central hole (31c). When the device is assembled, a central core of magnetic material (32a) is inserted into the central hole of the printed coil 31. Such a structure is clearly patentably distinguishable from the structure as now more clearly and precisely recited in independent claims 1 and 15, wherein it is now recited that the spiral-shaped slit comprises at least two 360° loops around a solid center portion of the plate. Thus, whereas the reference discloses a coil with a hollow center,

into which is inserted a magnetic core from another structural element, the present invention now specifically and precisely recites that the coil is formed about a solid center portion of the plate.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that, even if the cited and applied references are deemed to be properly combinable, the instant invention as now more precisely claimed is clearly patentably distinguishable in at least two major and important structural aspects.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the currently-pending claims, as herein amended to more particularly and precisely recite the distinguishing features of the present invention, are clearly patentably distinguishable over the cited and applied references. Accordingly, entry of this amendment, reconsideration of the rejection, and allowance of this application are earnestly solicited at this time.

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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